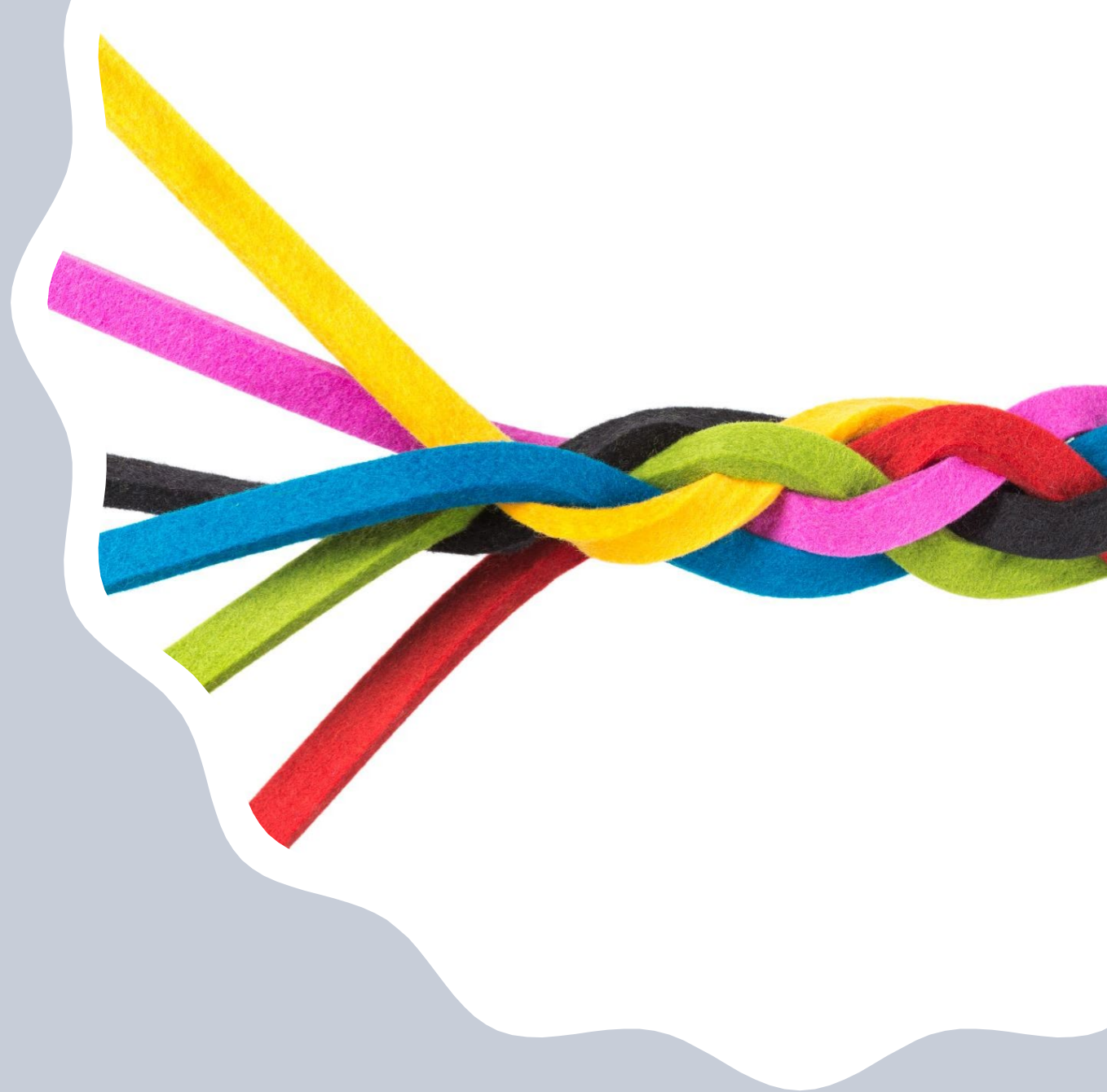


Supported Decision Making



How did we get here?

Guardianship means obtaining the legal authority to make decisions for another person.

The person no longer has the **basic right** of making their own decisions.

Supported Decision Making (Jenny Hatch)

Guardianship

“Plenary” or “Full Guardianship”

Gives the Guardian power to make ALL decisions for the person.

- Used in the majority of cases.

Guardianship over the person

Guardianship over the estate

Temporary Guardianship

Senate Bill 134 (RSA 464-D)

Effective January 1, 2022

Establish and **RECOGNIZE** Supported Decision Making as an alternative to Guardianship

If ADULT guardianship is being discussed by the IEP Team with a student or the students family – must inform of Supported Decision Making.

Law directs schools further with....

“This shall be done promptly when guardianship is first discussed. The IEP team shall make available resources to assist in establishing a supported decision-making agreement. If a supported decision-making agreement is executed, the IEP team shall abide by decisions made by the student pursuant to the supported decision-making agreement.”

Supported Decision Making (SDM)

“a recognized alternative to guardianship through which people with disabilities use friends, family members, and professionals to help them understand the situations and choices they face, so they may make their own decisions without the “need” for a guardian.”

- Blanck & Martinis, 2015

Process for Supported Decision Making

Not necessary to file anything with the courts

A person can have multiple supporters

Form can be notarized or have 2 witnesses.

Use your own form or the one in the legislation

Individual can end the relationship at any time

Process..

Doesn't mean the person must follow the suggestions/advice of the supporter

Focus attention on decision making

Supporter role is to explain options, possibilities and potential consequences

Can exist WITH guardianship

It's a fluid process

Begins and ends with the Person being supported

Preparing for Supported Decision Making

Home, School, Social life

Ways we make decisions..

“It feels right” Following your gut. Deciding based on how you feel.

“Wait and See” – You postpone making a decision for as long as possible.

“Go along with others” Decide based on what others are doing.

“Least risky” Do what seems the safest. Don’t take any chances.....

“Decide impulsively” Don’t think it through or ask questions – just jump.

“Think it through” Consider the options and pros and cons of each. Carefully consider your options.

Skills of a Decision Maker

Having priorities or a goal

Being able to consider the pros
and cons of a decision

Being able to listen with an
open mind

Teach Decision Making

- Start early and never stop
- Do it often
- Problem solving and decision making are two separate things
 - Problem solving means being forced to make a decision because of conditions beyond your control.
 - Decision making means choosing to make a decision because you want something to happen that is not happening now.
- **Avoid Rescuing**

How can we
make SDM
work?

Individual and
supporter
work to:

Understand information, issues, and
choices

Focus attention on decision making

Weigh options

Ensure that Decisions are based on the
individuals preferences

Interpret and/or communicate decisions to
other parties.

Questions, Conversation & Evaluation

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/workshop21-22>

